

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION MEETING
September 18, 2013
Reporting for the month of August 2013

AWOLs: There were **109** AWOLs involving **94** youth: 11 youth AWOL'd more than once, with some AWOL'ing up to 3 times in this same month.

38 remain AWOL	1 HOP
29 returned to GH	7 CCP
18 are in JH	1 CDP

Outstanding AWOL detainments from previous months and arrests in August 2013:

7 youth were arrested/detained in August. 3 are currently in JH, 1 is in a GH, 2 are in Camp, and 1 is HOP.

Statistics and Findings regarding AWOLs in August

- 1) 41% of the AWOL incidents were Hispanic males with a mean age of 16.7 years. The overall average age of youth who AWOL'd in August was 16.6 years. Additional stats:

25%- Black males with an average age of 16.6 years.

14%- Hispanic females with an average age of 16.4 years.

12%- Black females with an average age of 16.6 years.

3%- White males with an average age of 15.9 years.

3%- White females with an average age of 16 years.

1%- Females with an ethnicity of 'Other' with an average age of 18.6 years.

1%- Male with an unspecified ethnicity with an average age of 16.3

Recommendation:

- For the past 13 months, the average age and majority race of AWOL'd youth remained about the same. Therefore, for all 13 months, Hispanic males above the age of 16 were around 40% to 50% of AWOL incidents. This statistic may likely be a representation of the general population of LA County. Even if that is a fact, it still means this is the population that Probation needs to work with to decrease AWOLs. DPOs, Therapists, or other GH and County staff, should interview at-risk youth (mainly Hispanic males around the age of 16) to find out about certain feelings related to age, gender, or cultural stresses and consider possible solutions to decrease these feelings/stresses.
 - Make DPOs and GH staff aware of the demographics that are at most risk of AWOLing. Research and identify possible methods or daily practices of assisting youth to come to a less stressful state of mind.
- 2) In the previous months, a correlation was detected between the time youth AWOLs and the time it takes for the GH to report the incident and whether or not the youth remains AWOL'd or is detained. To illustrate:

Correlation between these factors (dashes represent passing time, whereas, more dashes represent a longer period of time):

Time Awol'd-----Time Reported-----Youth is detained either in a GH or JH.

**Time Awol'd-----Time Reported-----
Youth is still AWOL-----**

Based on statistical findings from previous months, *the sooner the GH reports the AWOL, the more likely it is that the Youth is detained within the end of the month.* For efficiency, we can call the passing period between the AWOL incident and the notification to authorities of the incident the **“Idle Phase.” Idle Phase or IP can be defined as duration of time passed between any two actions.** Certain actions are dependent on each other for progress or success. In this case, the two actions are the reporting of the AWOL by the GH and the detainment of the youth. Similar to the previous month, in this month the correlation was *not* detected. Both, youth who were detained, and youth who are still AWOL, had an average IP of around 0.7 to 0.9 (GH reported incident in under a day).

Recommendation:

- Continue monitoring monthly trends to verify a continuing trend. Up to this point, 8 to 9 months out of the 13 months tracked have shown this continuing correlation. However, based on this month and last month, GHs have shown an improvement in timeliness and consistency with regards to AWOL reporting.
 - Reiterate to GH staff and to legal guardians of youth the importance of reporting an AWOL as soon as the incident occurs. Specifically, all AWOLs should be reported within 24 hours in order to expedite the issuance of a bench warrant and the recovery of the youth. Statistics should be shared with GH staff to illustrate the real results of delayed reporting.
- 3)** As with previous months, certain GHs showed a higher percentage of AWOLs than other GHs. This was determined by taking the number of AWOLs for that month and comparing it to the number of beds available in the GH (population). It is important to note that youth who AWOL'd more than once in the same GH were only counted as 1 AWOL. For August 2013, 5 GHs had a 30% or higher AWOL rate. This is a much lower number of GHs compared to the previous month. Last month, 10 GHs had a 30% or higher AWOL rate.

Recommendation:

- Continue to track the frequency of AWOLs for each GH and see if a consistent pattern remains amongst the same group homes. At this point, certain GHs have shown to have a consistently high number of AWOLs.
- Several confounding factors have to be controlled to identify a direct correlation between GH treatment of youth and AWOLs. For example, a high AWOL rate for a GH could only mean that that particular GH gets higher risk youth.
- Investigate GHs that have an unusually high number of AWOLs compared to other GHs to see possible reasons.
- Interview youth during investigation.

- Create a plan of action based on results (directives for GH, staff training, etc).
 - Monitor GH to see if trend has stopped after implementation of programs or directives.
- 4) Similar to last month, there was no correlation found related to IP between bench warrant requests and bench warrant issued and effect on youth detainment (**IP-duration of time passed between two actions; see item #2 for explanation**). As in, there was no relationship detected this month to show that the sooner the bench warrant was issued, the higher the chances were of the youth being detained by the end of the month:

Recommendation:

- Regardless of strong or weak correlations, consider the importance of having a bench warrant issued as soon as possible for an AWOL'd youth. Overall, the sooner a bench warrant is issued, the more likely it is that the youth will be detained by the end of the month (as several previous months' data has shown).
- 5) This month, a relationship between AWOLs and a lack of contact with DPO in the first seven business days of SP was not tracked due to all previous month showing no correlation.

Recommendation:

- Continue to not track this data for the time being.
- 6) Patterns regarding suitable placement dates and AWOL dates were also noted. This month, there was no correlation detected between number of days in placement and the likelihood of an AWOL. As in, the data did not show that youth was more likely to AWOL when they were just placed or if they had already been placed for a long time.
- 7) **Final Remarks on AWOLs:** Similar to last month, all 'insignificant' AWOLs were also incorporated into the data this month (i.e. youth AWOL'ing for an hour). Certain trends relating to race, age, and sex continued to mirror the previous months' data. This month's data results were different from most of the previous months. There were far less AWOLs, and continuing correlations from previous months failed to appear this month. DPO and number of AWOLs per DPO were also tracked, but not included in this report. There are other trends that could be revealed, such as correlation between Gang affiliation and AWOL'ing or incidents.

iTrack (SIRs)-

There were 0 child deaths and 1 suicide attempt reported for the month of August 2013 in iTrack. The largest category for SIRs continued to be "other", providing no description of the type of incident the youth was involved in.

Recommendation:

- Instruct all iTrack users to NOT select the category "other," unless incident undeniably does NOT belong under any specific category. Another option is to remove the category "other," and instead add additional specific categories (once it is determined why users are selecting "other"). Probation is currently discussing improvement ideas regarding iTrack with ISD software managers.

GROUP HOME MONITORING AND INVESTIGATIONS:

Current:

No Group Homes are currently on any HOLD Status.

Child Abuse, we had 5 referrals, of which 2 were **Unfounded**, 2 were **Inconclusive** and 1 was **Substantiated**.

Leroy Haynes- youth alleged that a Group Home staff hit him in the eye on purpose during a restraint. Allegation was **Unfounded** for Physical Abuse.

Masada (Ralston site)- Youth alleged that a staff placed his knee on his chest and put his hand around the youth's neck during a restraint. Allegation for Physical Abuse was **Unfounded**.

Aiming High (Yucaipa)- Youth's parents alleged that Group Staff hit the youth while attempting to take away the phone from the youth. Allegation of Physical Abuse was **Inconclusive**.

DeliLu- Youth's mother reported that boys were sneaking into the Group Home and sleeping overnight and giving the girls alcohol. Allegation for General Neglect against the Group Home was **Substantiated**.

Trinity Yucaipa- Youth alleged that he was "raped" by another youth while he was a resident at the Group Home. The allegation for General Neglect was **Unfounded**.

Group Home Investigations:

We had **9** Group Home investigations during the month of August 2013, 4 were **Substantiated**, 2 were **Unfounded** and 3 are still **Pending**.

CAOF (West Hills site)- The SBC made a complaint regarding the conditions of the West Hills site. Allegation was **Substantiated**.

Dimondale (Hawthorne site)- I-track lacking information, stating the youth was covered in marks and bruises with no further information. CAP requested. Allegation of improper reporting of information was **Substantiated**.

Vista Del Mar- Youth disclosed that she was “raped” prior to her placement at the Group Home. The Group Home failed to contract the Child Abuse Hotline as mandated reporters. Allegation is **Pending** a finding.

New Concept- Youth’s mother alleged that her son went AWOL from the Group Home because her son was forced to fight another youth to settle their differences. Youth remains AWOL. Allegation is **Pending** a finding.

ROP Silver State- Youth made numerous allegations of physical abuse against the staff. Allegations were all **Unfounded**.

Vista Del Mar- DPO of Record (for the youth) reported that the Group Home failed to report a serious injury. Allegation was **Substantiated**.

Maryvale- Two youth were able to break into the staff office and steal \$121.00. Allegation was **Substantiated**.

Phoenix House- Youth’s parents made a complaint that their son was strip searched by staff and were looking closely at his genitals. Youth was detained for pushing staff because he felt uncomfortable. Allegation is **Pending** a finding.

Masada (Newall)- Youth was found in the bathroom after returning from a home pass, passed out drunk, laying in his vomit. Allegation that staff was neglectful is **Unfounded**.

Monitoring:

We are finishing up the approval processes for the 2012-2013, fiscal year. Reports should be posted soon. The 2013-2014, compliance monitoring has begun.

Permanency-

We are in various stages of preparation for **3 potential adoptions** and **5 potential legal guardianships** by the end of the year or before.